

Social Responsibility Committee
Meeting Notes 10/11/15
Notetaker/Facilitator: Judith

Present: Dave Grundy, Ginnie Humphreys, Harris Webster, Sasha Thayer, Fran Krushenick, Nancy Potak, Hedi Ballantyne, Vicky Viens, Judith Hinds, Peter Thoms, Rev. Joan Javier-Duval.

1. Leadership.

Background info from agenda: There seems to be wide agreement that the SRC functions best as a collection of small, action-oriented teams, each devoted to one project or aspect of social justice work. However, we do need a point person for SRC matters. This person could be called a “chair,” a “clerk,” a “manager,” or some other term. The name is less important than the function, which would be to keep tabs on all the church’s social responsibility projects, keep in touch with all the teams, report to the ET and congregation twice a year (midyear and Annual Report), call and lead meetings as needed, update the SRC page on the church website, and generally be the go-to person for SR questions and suggestions. Mara Iverson has offered to co-chair (or co-manage) if someone will partner with her. She was unable to attend the meeting.

Discussion: Harris is willing to provide consultation and assistance to the co-chairs, but is not willing to be one of them. A couple of people are “thinking about it.” We hope to have the co-chairs in place by the end of this month. Joan will check in with Mara.

2. Social action teams.

Here’s a list of those that have been mentioned during the past year, along with the leader of each. Leaders need to keep the co-chairs informed of their activities, and are welcome to ask the whole SRC group for assistance as needed. Any area without a leader will not move forward.

Community Pouch – Ginnie H.

Heifer Project liaison – Hedi

SRC Library – Mary Alice and Fran

Pea Soup Freeze-in – Rhoda

Food Pantry collections – Harris

Community Lunch – Dave G.

UUSC liaison – ?

Planting Hope liaison – Beth

Climate Justice – Sue R. [includes liaison with VTIPL and 350VT]

Write4Rights – ?

Funeral Consumers Alliance liaison – Mary Alice

Compassion & Choices liaison – Judith

Community Legacy research group – ? (We agreed the search for members of this group needs to be expanded outside of SRC. Hedi, Sasha, and maybe Vicky will help. Joan will check with the Board to ensure they support the legacy idea before we move forward.)

3. Donation to VTIPL (Vermont Interfaith Power and Light).

The Board has approved UCM membership in VTIPL. We decided to make a token donation this year of \$50 from the SRC budget. Joan will check with the Executive Team on whether they would approve matching that donation from some other church budget line this year. In future years, we will request a separate line item in the budget for VTIPL.

[NOTE: On 10/14/15, the ET discussed this matter and decided not to look for matching funds elsewhere in the budget. Such action would be outside normal procedures. The VTIPL donation will stand at \$50 from SRC for this year.]

4. Meeting Schedule.

When meetings are needed, they will continue to be on Sundays. Sasha works every other Sunday, so the future co-chairs are asked to try to choose Sundays when she can attend. Fran does not have e-mail; phone or hard copy should be used to communicate with her.